REMARKS

Claims 1 to 22 are pending. Claims 2, 6, 9 and 12 are cancelled. Claims 14 to 22 are new.

No claims are allowed.

1. Claims 1, 2, 4 to 7 and 9 to 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolford (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0181916) in view of Dye (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0229356).

Wolford relates to an orthopedic reamer 10 that is used to cut an acetabulum. The reamer includes a shaft 12 and a head 14. The shaft 12 has a drive end 16 and a distal end 18. As described in paragraph 20, the distal end 18 is coupled with the head 14 "in any suitable manner, such as welding, threaded engagement, twist and lock, bayonet fittings, etc." The Examiner states in the office action, page 2, that "with regard to claims 9, 11 and 12 respectively, the interface structure is a portion of at least one cross bar (see para. 20)" of Wolford. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Dye describes an acetabular shell impaction instrument 10 comprising an elongated body 12 extending from a proximal impaction end 14 to a distal connection end 16. The connection end 16 includes a bore 40. A bolt or screw 50 is captured inside the bore 40. The bolt 50 includes an externally threaded shaft 54 at a distal end. The impaction instrument is removably connectable to an acetabular shell 120. The "shell 120 includes a threaded bore 122 in the top of the dome. Bolt 50 is threadingly engaged with bore 122 so the impaction instrument can hold, carry, and align the shell onto the acetabulum 126. Once the shell is in position, the impaction end 14 is struck end the shell is impacted into the acetabulum. The bolt 50 is then threadingly disengaged from the shell and the instrument is removed" (see para. 77).

The Examiner has taken the position that "Dye discloses an interface structure 16 fixedly attached to the inside of the dome so as to completely and substantially inset the interface structure inwardly from the edge and within the dome as per claim 1(see para. 66, para. 69 and para.77), wherein the interface structure is attached via at least one internal junction which is entirely recessed within the dome above the equatorial plane as stated in claim 2 (see para.77), wherein the interface structure is fixedly attached to the inside of the dome via a junction located approximately at the apex of the dome, as per claim 6 (see para. 77), or substantially along the latitudinal plane of the interface structure, as per claim 7 (see para. 77), and an angled spindle 22 as per claim 13, in order to provide an assembly that provides minimum invasiveness of orthopedic surgery (see para. 18)." The common element in each of these claim rejections is the "interface structure", which reverts back to Wolford.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to call for the "interface structure comprising at least one cross-bar fixedly attached to the inside of the dome at intermediate locations between the equatorial plane and the apex so that the interface structure is positioned inwardly from the edge and within the dome". As previously discussed, the Applicants don't believe that Wolford describes a cross-bar meeting this claim scope. Independent claim 13 has been amended in a similar manner.

Accordingly, amended independent claims 1 and 13 are allowable over the cited prior art combination of Wolford in view of Dye. Claims 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim. Claims 2, 6, 9 and 12 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot with respect to them.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

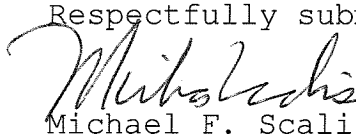
2. Claims 3 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolford in view of Dye as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wolford et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2006/0189994). These claims depend from amended independent claim 1. Dye et al.'s teachings regarding the removal of at least one section from a reamer dome doesn't adversely impact that allowability. Accordingly, claims 3 and 8 are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. New claim 14 is directed to an acetabular reamer having an interface structure comprising "a shaft having a proximal end secured to an inner surface of the dome at the apex and extending to a distal end supporting at least two radial spokes extending therefrom in a radial spokes plane within the dome." Neither Wolford or Dye describe an interface structure covering this claimed scope. New claims 15 to 21 depend from claim 14. New independent claim 22 is directed to a surgical reamer assembly having an interface structure for the hemispherical dome that is of a similar scope as that set forth in claim 14.

It is believe that claims 1, 3 to 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13 to 22 are in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael F. Scalise
Reg. No. 34,920

Greatbatch, Inc.
10,000 Wehrle Drive
Clarence, NY 14031
(716)759-5810
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